

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and reconsideration and further examination of the subject application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

By the above amendments, claims 1, 3, and 48-50 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. (Claims 22-46, 51-69, and 71-72 were canceled by previous amendment.) Thus, upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 3-21, 47-50, and 70 will remain pending in the application. Each of these claims is under consideration.

Substance of the Interview

Applicants extend their appreciation to the Examiner for the personal interview conducted on December 1, 2005. The Examiner's Interview Summary accurately reflects the substance of the interview. In accordance with the interview, Applicants are presenting herewith the amendments that the Examiner indicated would place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shih (U.S. Patent No. 5,891,294) in view of Murphy (GB 2,205,593). Claims 47-50 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shih in view of Murphy, and further in view of Kozlowski (U.S. Patent No. 4,209,865). Finally, claim 70 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shih in view of Murphy, and further in view of Eida (U.S. Patent No. 2,614,521).

These rejections lack proper basis at least because there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Shih with those of Murphy, as hypothesized in the Office Action. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, which the Examiner has indicated as placing the application in condition for allowance.

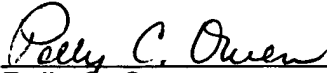
Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn, and the application should be passed to issuance.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

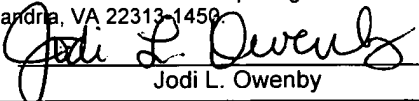
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Jodi L. Owenby

February 20, 2006
Date